Draft budget proposals

543. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government are committed to lift the veil of secrecy in the Governance and make it more transparent;

(b) whether he is aware that the Government of Andhra Pradesh had released budget draft proposals for debate among the public;

(c) if so, whether he will also follow suit and make public the union budget draft proposals as part of providing transparency in the Governance; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Government of India is committed to progressively greater transparency in its functioning, including budget making process. Clause 6 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000 introduced in December, 2000 specifically provides for more transparency in fiscal operations and for minimising, as far as practicable, secrecy in the preparation of the annual budget.

Floating of bogus firms

544. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several freight forwarding companies are engaged in money laundering by floating bogus firms in different countries;

(b) whether Government are aware that M/s. Continental Carriers, RZ-293, A-Block Mahipalpur Extn. and M/s. Skyways, RZ-128, 129-A, Mahipalpur Extn., New Delhi-37 are engaged in a racket involving huge amount of money laundering under the guise of false exports in connivance with several exporters;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to institute an enquiry against such exporters;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?